Bulletin August, 1988, National Institute of Virology, Pune have suggested that the following parameters need to be considered for the control of Japanese Encephalitis:

(i) Vaccination of the population at risk.

(ii) Immunization of pigs which serve as the amplifiers of the virus.

(iii) Vector control measures.

(iv) Public health measures and community participation.

(v) Diagnosis and patient care in hospitals.

According to the information received from the State Health Authorities, cases of Japanese Encephalitis have been reported from the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar; Goa; Karnataka, Manipur, Tamil Nadu Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. During 1988, 5430 cases and 1785 deaths due to Japanese Encephalitis have been reported from these States so far.

The measure undertaken at present to control the spread of disease are as under:—

1. Symptomatic treatment is being given to all cases of Japanese Encephalitis. Special arrangements have been made for free transportation of affected persons to hospitals.

2. Insecticidal spray has been carried out with BHC and DDT in the affected districts and antilarval operation has been intensified.

3. Fogging operations with Malathion have been undertaken in the affected areas.

4. State Governments have been advised to stock of common medicines for treatment of Japanese Encephalitis have been ensured in all the affected districts.

5. Adequate health education measures have been taken through publicity with the help of different media for eliciting community participation in control and prevention.

Research on AIDS

1545. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has justified the thrust on research on AIDS because the disease is infectious and affect the general public;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to boost the research on AIDS;

(c) if so, whether the WHO have given any kind of help to India to make research on AIDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research have initiated several research activities on AIDS.

(c) and (d) The WHO has assisted in training of scientific personnel from India in research laboratories abroad on several aspects of TIV infection, management and treatment of AIDS cases.

Conference of State Chief Secretaries in Panchayati Raj System

1546. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the Conference of State Chief Secretaries was held to discuss and make recommendations about the Panchayati Raj System in the country and what were the recommendations made therein; and

(b) the follow-up action taken so far on each of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARA): (a) and **(b) A Conference of State Chief Secretaries** was held on 30th July, 1988 to consider the paper on 'Panchayati Raj and District Planning' prepared in the Workshop of Collectors/Districts Magistrates on 'Responsive Administration'. A statement on the consensus arrived at and recommendations made by the Conference is laid on the table of the House (*See* below). These recommendations will be further discussed in the appropriate fora before any action is taken in this regard.

Statement

The major points around which consensus emerged in the Conference were:

(i) It was both necessary and desirable to revive the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(ii) Planning must begin at the grass roots.

(iii) A three tier structure of Panchayati Raj was suitable as a general model. Modifications were needed in some of the states of the North East, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(iv) There are advantages in shifting the focus of development planning and administration to the block and away from the village on the one hand, and the district on the other, which is not close enough to the people to generate a sense of participation.

(v) Except for elections at the gram panchayats level, elections for block and district panchayats could be on party lines.

(vi) While planning decisions and monitoring functions should be left to elected representatives, executive responsibilities should vest with the Collector and his team of officers. The Collector could function as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Zila Parishad for this purpose.

(vii) Development and regulatory aspects of administration should not be separated. One focal point in the district should deal with both. The District Collectors should be the focal point and his independent status should not be compromised at this stage in our development through his being made an employee of the local body.

(viii) The interest of the weaker sections should be safeguarded not only through a policy of reservation of seats, but also through earmarking of certain financial allocations.

(ix) In developing functions and responsibilities to local bodies, it is necesary to eschew too ambitious an approach, but ensure that whatever functions are in fact devolved are matched by needed resources financial and organisational.

(x) A political consensus is required for implementing suggestions that have now emerged on Panchayati Raj and District Planning. Regarding a Constitutional amendment, this could also be pursued, provided there was a political consensus on this point.

Theft of Uranium

1547. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Statesman dated the 24th September, 1988 stating that refined uranium worth over Rs. 1 crore was seized from a Ranchi based (Businessman) smuggler near the Nepal